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Dictionary



a·bout (ə-bout')

adv.

1. Approximately; nearly: *The interview lasted about an hour.*
2. Almost: *The job is about done.*
3. To a reversed position or direction: *Turn about and walk away slowly.*
4. In no particular direction: *wandering about with no place to go.*
5. All around; on every side: *Let's look about for help.*
6. In the area or vicinity; near: *spoke to a few spectators standing about.*
7. In succession; one after another: *Turn about is fair play.*
8.
 - a. On the verge of; presently going to. Used with the infinitive: *The chorus is about to sing.*
 - b. *Usage Problem.* Used to show determination or intention in negative constructions with an infinitive: *I am not about to concede the point.*

prep.

1. On all sides of; surrounding: *I found an English garden all about me.*
2. In the vicinity of; around: *explored the rivers and streams about the estate.*
3. Almost the same as; close to; near.
4.
 - a. In reference to; relating to; concerned with: *a book about snakes.*
 - b. In the act or process of: *While you're about it, please clean your room.*
5. In the possession or innate character of: *Keep your wits about you.*

adj.

1. Moving here and there; astir: *The patient is up and about.*